

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Siletz Tribal Council completed another important cycle involving the excess pledge revenues (EPR) budget process. As we have explained in previous issues, the EPR refers to revenue generated by Chinook Winds and made available to the Siletz Tribe for tribal purposes after all operating and other necessary expenses have been paid.

The current EPR budget process involved funds received by the tribe from January through December 2003. The council met with and listened to the general manager, program directors, and other staff who described their accomplishments, goals, and funding needs.

As the council listened, we were made acutely aware how numerous and pressing our unmet tribal needs are. We wished we had sufficient funds to meet



Chairman Delores Pigsley

all the needs expressed by staff, but unfortunately we do not at this time.

As you can imagine, the council's task of prioritizing and allocating to the

numerous programs and services the limited EPR funds that are available to us is extremely challenging.

The budget process for the period beginning January 2005 also has already begun.

Recently, I and other Oregon tribal representatives met with Sen. Gordon Smith in Portland. He invited us to this meeting and all of us were given time to discuss our tribal issues with him.

I took this opportunity to specifically relate to the senator the critical health care needs of the Siletz Tribe and the fact that almost all tribes are in a crisis situation because of diminishing appropriated funds from the Indian Health Service.

All of the chairmen took the opportunity of thanking Sen. Smith for the support he has given tribes on various Indian issues.

Regarding the Chemawa Station property, I am pleased to report that we continue to meet cooperatively with the Grand Ronde Tribe on a regular basis. We are very close to beginning the development of the property.

As for the tribe's relationship with the city of Siletz, we have had a joint meeting of the councils to discuss police protection and water issues.

The Tribal Police Department strives to provide coverage with only three police officers. Since it's not possible for them to provide full 24-hour coverage, however, their schedules are adjusted so they can be as accessible as possible under the circumstances.

Our police officers currently are funded through a Department of Justice grant that is limited to three years, after which the tribe must bear the cost of Siletz police protection. The fact is there is more work than can be handled by three officers with all that goes on in Siletz and the surrounding area.

The city of Siletz also has serious water issues that the tribe and the Siletz City Council must address. These involve the high cost of water and what must be done proactively to assure that current and new developments, including housing, have sufficient water to meet the needs of all residents.



To the editor:

Vietnam Memorial

We would like to take this time to say "thank you" to all the tribal elders, friends, and family who took the time to sign the beautiful card. It was very thoughtful and heartwarming.

Our daughter, Bev Youngman, represented those of us unable to attend. We would also like to thank Cheryl Ben for her part in the lighting ceremony. It couldn't have been easy for her, either.

Also, our thanks to Douglas Brown for the printout and carbon and little flag.

Thanks to Rose Bremner for the hard copy inscription.

Thanks for all the photos. The Color Guard and the bagpipes. Thank you, Tony Molina.

There is also a Vietnam Memorial going down to Nye Beach in Newport. Paul's niche is No. 11 and stands for fidelity.

Sincerely,
June and Bill Austin, and all our family, including Youngman, Austins, Hatches, Pettits, Simmons, and Rilatos



To the editor:

It started for me when I was 12. The year was 1972 and the election was Nixon-McGovern. My sixth-grade social studies teacher, Ms. Moore, asked the class to divide by who would vote for each candidate and it ended up that she and I were the only ones on the McGovern side of the room.

We spent the next hour and much of the week debating the merits of the two candidates - it was a time I'll never forget. Perhaps my first sense that the minority can often be right. My first taste of a Jew standing with a black person, my teacher, and how that dynamic could work.

I don't think I've missed a presidential election since then - Carter, Mondale, Dukakis, Clinton 1 and 2, Gore, and now Kerry. The elections have always been important, but I've never felt that the results could actually endanger me physically.

I'm now concerned that this administration may "accidentally" push the button or take us to war unnecessarily again. At 43, I don't believe this country can afford another four years of George Bush & Co. It's just too dangerous for Americans and the peoples of the world.

Sincerely,
Albert Kaufman

Congratulations!

Chief Judge Graduates from Judicial Center

In 2002, The National Judicial College and the Bureau of Justice Assistance created the National Tribal Judicial Center, located in the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The college has a certificate program in tribal judicial skills, which requires 35 credit hours. On June 7, 2004, the National Judicial College informed Chief Judge Calvin Gantenbein that he had graduated in this program. He is the third judge in the nation to graduate from this course of study.

Appellate Judge Robert Dickinson is enrolled in this program and expects to graduate in 2005.

Students Make Honor Roll at SVS

Siletz Valley School staff is very excited to see all of you again as the new school year starts. We are all looking forward to a fun and rewarding year!

The following students were named to the second semester (2003-2004) honor roll. Congratulations!

Grade 6, 3.5 to 3.99 GPA: Tim Lindstrom, Loy Marthaller, Tiernan Pettit, Chris Williams, and Joe Wilson

Grade 7, 3.5 to 3.99 GPA: Dillon Blacketer and Netalia Coats

Grade 8, 3.5 to 3.99 GPA: Levi Bolt, Chyann Payne, Mark Tom, and Shelby Wallace